

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) Process for removing a contaminant from contaminated groundwater, ~~which process comprises the following~~ comprising the steps of:
 - a) contacting a surface region of soil with a biologically active material to form a biologically active layer ~~is applied~~ on or in the soil surface region such that at least an upper part of the biologically active layer is located above a level of contaminated groundwater in the soil; and
 - b) causing the contaminated groundwater to contact ~~is contacted with~~ the biologically active material in the biologically active layer with the aid of a gas and/or by pumping to thereby remove the contaminant from the contaminated groundwater.
2. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein step a) includes contacting the soil surface with the biologically active material so as to form a discontinuous biologically active layer ~~is applied discontinuously.~~
3. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein step a) includes forming the biologically active layer ~~is of such to a depth in the soil surface region such that a~~ [[that the]] lower part of the biologically active layer is in contact with ~~located in the groundwater.~~
4. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein step b) includes causing the contaminated groundwater [[is]] to be brought into or on top of the biologically active layer.
5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)
7. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein step b) includes causing the contaminated groundwater ~~is contacted to be brought into contact~~ with the biologically active layer more than once.
8. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the contaminant is readily soluble.
9. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, further comprising the step of adding wherein an electron acceptor ~~is added during the process to the contaminated groundwater.~~
10. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein ammonia is the contaminant in the groundwater, and wherein the process comprises nitrifying the ammonia contaminant ~~nitrified~~ to nitrate and subsequently ~~converting the nitrate is converted~~ into N₂ through addition of a carbon-containing component.
11. (previously presented) Process for removing a contaminant from contaminated groundwater, wherein the contaminant is NH₃ and wherein the process comprises the following steps:
 - a) a biologically active layer is applied in or on the soil;
 - b) the contaminated groundwater is contacted under aerobic conditions with the biologically active layer whereby in the biologically active layer NH₃ is converted into NO₃;
 - c) step b) is repeated during a period of time that is needed to reduce the concentration of NH₃ to the desired level;
 - d) subsequently, the groundwater whose concentration of NH₃ has been reduced to the desired level is contacted with the biologically active layer under anaerobic conditions: and

- e) step d) is repeated during the period of time that is needed to reduce the concentration of NO_3 to the desired level.
12. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein a detergent is added.
 13. (new) Process according to claim 1, wherein step a) includes forming trenches in the soil surface region, and placing the biologically active material in the trenches.
 14. (new) Process according to claim 13, wherein the trenches are discontinuous.